



News Release

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City, Parks and Recreation Awarded for Community Forestry

The City of Columbia and Columbia Parks and Recreation have recently been awarded for its forestry program.

The City has once again been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. It is the 11th year the City has received this designation. Columbia also received a Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating progress in tree planting and maintenance, street tree planting, and hazard tree program.

The Growth Award recognizes environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities.

Columbia met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.

Parks and Recreation also recently was awarded by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, a not-for-profit tree planting and education organization. The organization presents the Exceptional ReLeaf awards for outstanding planting projects from the previous year using trees donated by the organization.

Winners are selected by Forest ReLeaf in three categories: school, municipal/ government, and organization. The projects are evaluated on the quality of the planting and maintenance, the degree of volunteer involvement, and the overall benefit to the community.

Columbia won the municipal category after receiving 125 free trees from Forest ReLeaf to help enhance the new Longview neighborhood park, which was developed on land that formerly had been used for sewage treatment. The trees were planted by volunteers and park staff to provide shade, beauty and enhanced wildlife habitat along a newly-constructed perimeter trail, and to absorb stormwater in nearby drainage areas.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.